the expression perfectly correct, and the arrangement clear and systematic; and it is in this sense only I should suppose that the word "period" has been employed by Mr. Sharpe. It may be, indeed, that another word may be found not liable to this misconstruction, and if so, it would be much better to discard "period" in favour of it; but the whole tenor of Mr. Sharpe's observations stands entirely in the way of any supposition that his "periods" are meant to be anything like an exhaustive division.

In fact, such divisions can only be made for practical purposes; and for these, the divisions already marked out are in reality pretty much the same. The nomenclature of Rickman and the Ecclesiological Society on the one hand, and of Mr. Freeman and Mr. Sharpe on the other, differs chiefly in name, and not for the most part in principle. And, most desirable as it is that one fixed nomenclature should be agreed upon and adopted by all, still it would greatly advance our knowledge were all ready to confess that the reconcilement now needed is one—not on a matter of principle, but—of convenience of names. And, so far as can be gathered from his remarks, the classification (however different may be the names he gives them) adopted by "F. S. A." must be practically much the same as that marked out by Mr. Sharpe. Certainly, the name "Curvilinear," employed by Mr. Sharpe to denote what is commonly called "Flowing," seems not strictly correct and logical: if this word is used, the Geometrical must also fall under it; and this in its turn must be accused, although in less degree, of trenching upon the province of Curvilinear. But these, which are in nowise matters of principle, we are willing and content to put aside till, as we look forward, a fixed nomenclature can be generally agreed upon: meanwhile nothing can so much advance our progress as to perceive that, although often different names may be employed, yet that on matters of system and principle we are agreed.

But it seems to me that "F. S. A." lays too absolute a stress upon the importance of dates: their value, of course, cannot be denied; but for purposes of classifying we must look to other things, not to dates or to mouldings only, but the general characteristics, which at once show that in spirit and design a building belongs to one style or period rather than another. The kind of moulding employed is the surest evidence of the date of a building; but it is by no means so sure an index of its style: it may well be that the design of one period may, to a certain extent, be clothed in the language of another: it may be that the great restorer of Winchester may have been himself not over-conversant with mouldings. These must necessarily have been left to professional hands, and to their more intimate knowledge must their treatment have been entrusted.

It is not necessary to advert to the different facts noticed by "F. S. A.," because I suppose that they would all be almost universally acknowledged. On these statements there can be no question: one remarkable instance, indeed, is given, namely, the Saxon towers raised after the Norman conquest, in the low town at Lincoln, which furnishes the best evidence of the independent existence of the Saxon style, from its continuance, for a time, alongside of that introduced by the conquerors. In this, perhaps, they are more valuable as Transitional specimens than any others, as showing the development, in this country, of a style founded on the same kind of principles with one introduced from a foreign country, although in many points varying from it; but with this, as with all the other periods, "F. S. A." shows that they overlap one another, at once leading us to the conclusion that for practical purposes we must be content with classifications by periods which do not include all instances of examples of the same character. And Mr. Sharpe's divisions, with the Transitional periods which in each of them are implied, appear sufficient for this purpose, although we might recommend the rejection of the words "curvilinear" or "period." At all events, the discovery of Transition examples does but strengthen the grounds of this classification, as showing the inevitable course of a real and true development; whereas, by adhering to a more strict classification of date as setting the bounds of a particular style, each new Transitional example that is found can only be a cause of fresh disappointment if it occur beyond the boundaries assigned.

GEORGE W. COX (Trin. Coll.),
Late Secretary of the Oxford Architectural Society.

PROCEEDINGS AT IPSWICH.

THE meeting of the British Association, and the laying of the foundation-stone of the new building for the ancient foundation of the Grammar School of Ipswich, now to be extended, together with the presence of Prince Albert at both, have made Ipswich within the last fortnight a great centre of attraction. The Association met on the 2nd inst., when the Astronomer Royal, Mr. G. B. Airy, took the chair as president for the session, and delivered the usual review of progress since last meeting.

In respect to the new proof of the earth's rotation, he said that "It is certain that M. Foucault's theory is correct; but it is also certain that careful adjustments, or measures of defect of adjustment, are necessary to justify the deduction of any valid inference. For want of these, the experiment has sometimes failed." The Council of the Association, he then went on to say, "have long regretted the very great delay which has occurred in the publication of the geodetic results of our great national survey; and they were prepared some time since to represent strongly to the Government the expediency of taking immediate steps for completing the few calculations which yet remained to be made, and for publishing the whole in a form which should be available for discussions of the figure of the earth. On communicating with the Royal Society, they learned that that body had made an urgent recommendation to the same tenor, and that in consequence Government had consented to place on the Estimates a sum of money expressly for the purpose of completing and publishing the scientific portions of the survey. I have received official information that this work is now in active progress; and I cannot but remark on it as a striking instance of how much may be sometimes effected for the purposes of science by simply completing what is nearly complete.

At the last meeting of the Association, a committee was appointed expressly to urge on the Government, what had long excited the attention of the Association, the defective state of the survey as regards Scotland. I am happy in stating that there is strong reason to hope that a large sum will in future be appropriated to the Scottish survey."

Amongst the subjects of greatest interest and importance under discussion in the Sections, were Col. Reid's theory of circular storms, and a communication from Mr. Mercer, made by Dr. Lyon Playfair, "On a new Method of Contracting the Fibres of Calico, and of obtaining on the Calico thus prepared Colours of much brilliancy;" a subject likely not only to give an additional stimulus to manufactures in general, but to the art of design, and the schools for its development in particular. The agent used is simply a cold solution of caustic soda, which, moreover, from its contractile influence, has the curious effect of converting a loose coarse-woven texture into a close and fine one, more worthy of clear and beautiful colours and good designs. Another subject of interest was the "Proposed Railway Communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific in the Territories of British North America," on Mr. Asa Whitney's plan of directing the line of emigration and location along a belt of some sixty miles, running right across the continent. The gradients are not only said to be more favourable, especially at the Rocky Mountain Pass, but the distance much shorter, and the terminus at Halifax or elsewhere northwards much more convenient for European traffic: so much so indeed that an United States writer, the *New York Tribune*, extols it as not only preferable to Mr. Whitney's route, but as likely to raise British America from a mere colonial dependency to the assumption of a controlling rank in the world. "To her other nations would be tributary; and in vain would the United States attempt to be her rival, for we could never dispute with her the possession of the Asiatic commerce, or the power which that confers."

The Museum was formally visited by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who thence proceeded to the site of the new building for the Grammar School adjoining the new Arboretum, where he laid the chief stone.

The buildings, which are designed by Mr. Fleury, architect, are in the Tudor style of architecture, in compliment to the memory of Cardinal Wolsey, a townsman, and of his intention to endow the town with such an institution as it is now proposed to carry out. They embrace three sides of a quadrangle, the principal front being 170 feet in length. There will be sleeping-rooms for seventy boys, and the school will have accommodation for the education of about 200. Our readers will recollect a correspondence in our pages relative to the design.

TEACHINGS OF THE EXHIBITION.

IT is, indeed, something to have entered that huge hive of the industry of all nations, and to have carefully examined its stores of intellect contributed by all quarters of the globe; to have seen the ingenuity that has been applied to productions of every kind more or less distinguished by their peculiar merits, and valued either for their elegance, their grandeur, or their utility, and to have noticed the diversity of thought and intelligence with which the genius of every country has displayed itself. Among its multiplicity of objects, every faculty of the mind is appealed to, as every faculty has therein been exercised; every taste is presented with the best specimen of whatever is its favourite subject for study; every form that it was possible to devise in order to gratify the desire of the fastidious or supply the wants of the wealthy, meets us; and every species of art and mechanism, simple or elaborate, is here brought to its highest degree of development. The student who is yet unknown,—the man who has long exercised the fine skill of his hands,—the mechanic and the artizan: each, amid the wonders enshrined in this palace, can add to his knowledge and to his experience. Such a living encyclopædia as this is a means of instruction, a lever of education, that was long wanting to the solitary and unassisted student, who, being ignorant of what former ages and countries *had done*, could not tell what it was in the power of mind *to do*. The fragmentary and scattered forms in which knowledge was conveyed to him served rather to bewilder than enlighten. The present sons of industry have not, however, to bewail this deficiency nor to labour under this disadvantage; a glorious edifice being now open to them condensing all the discoveries of science, and all the conquests of the mind.

It is in this Exhibition that all see fresh motives to industry, and further inducements to excellence. The opportunities it offers for study to visitors in general, considering how much knowledge, artistic and mechanical, natural and artificial, must come by sight, are not to be slighted; but the professional carver, sculptor, and draughtsman appreciate the opportunity it offers to them for directing their talents. To all engaged in the arts it is a standard for correcting and advising such as have beat their minds in a wrong channel, or seen with imperfect eyes; who have made a bad use of their powers, and not employed them in the direction to which they were naturally inclined. Let all such profit themselves by comparing what they *have done* with what they *might have done*. This is one of the great teachings of the Exhibition.

It is, we think, indisputable, that all may at least inform their minds by the contemplation of such accumulations of beauty and magnificence. Even they who do not seem to have

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